



4184-01

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Administration for Children and Families

Proposed Information Collection Activity; Comment Request

Proposed Projects:

Title: Child Support Noncustodial Parent Employment Demonstration (CSPED)

OMB No.: 0970-NEW

Description:

The Office of Child Support Enforcement (OCSE) within the Administration for Children and Families (ACF) is proposing data collection activity as part of the Child Support Noncustodial Parent Employment Demonstration (CSPED). In October 2012, OCSE issued grants to eight state child support agencies to provide employment, parenting, and child support services to non-custodial parents who are having difficulty meeting their child support obligation. The overall objective of the CSPED evaluation is to document and evaluate the effectiveness of the approaches taken by these eight CSPED grantees. This evaluation will yield information about effective strategies for improving child support payments by providing non-custodial parents employment and other services through child support programs. It will generate extensive information on how these programs operated, what they cost, the effects the programs had, and whether the benefits of the programs exceed their costs. The information gathered will be critical

to informing decisions related to future investments in child support-led employment-focused programs for non-custodial parents who have difficulty meeting their child support obligations.

The CSPED evaluation will include the following two interconnected components or “studies”:

1. *Implementation and Cost Study.* The goal of the implementation and cost study is to provide a detailed description of the programs --how they are implemented, their participants, the contexts in which they are operated, their promising practices, and their costs. The detailed descriptions will assist in interpreting program impacts, identifying program features and conditions necessary for effective program replication or improvement, and carefully documenting the costs of delivering these services. Key activities of the implementation and cost study will include: (1) conducting semi-structured interviews with program staff and selected community partner organizations to gather information on program implementation and costs; (2) conducting focus groups with program participants to elicit participation experiences; (3) administering a web-based survey to program staff and community partners to capture broader staff program experiences; and (4) collecting data on study participant service use, dosage, and duration of enrollment throughout the demonstration using a web-based Management Information System (MIS).

2. *Impact Study.* The goal of the impact study is to provide rigorous estimates of the effectiveness of the eight programs using an experimental research design. Program applicants who are eligible for CSPED services will be randomly assigned to either a program group that is offered program services or a control group that is not. The study MIS that will document service

use for the implementation study will also be used by grantee staff to conduct random assignment for the impact study. The impact study will rely on data from surveys of participants, as well as administrative records from state and county data systems. Survey data will be collected twice from program applicants. Baseline information will be collected from all noncustodial parents who apply for the program prior to random assignment. A follow-up survey will be collected from sample members twelve months after random assignment. A wide range of measures will be collected through surveys, including measures of employment stability and quality, barriers to employment, parenting and co-parenting, and demographic and socio-economic characteristics. In addition, data on child support obligations and payments, Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) and Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) benefits, Medicaid receipt, involvement with the criminal justice system, and earnings and benefit data collected through the Unemployment Insurance (UI) system will be obtained from state and county databases.

This 60-Day Notice covers the following data collection activities: (1) guides for the semi-structured interviews with program staff and community partners, (2) focus group guides for program participants, (3) the web-based survey to document program staff and partner experiences, (4) the MIS functions for tracking participation in the program, (5) the introductory script which program staff will use to introduce the study to participants, (6) the baseline survey used to capture participant characteristics prior to randomization, (7) the MIS functions for conducting random assignment, and (8) the extraction of child support, benefit, earnings, and criminal justice data extracted from state and county administrative data systems.

Respondents:

Respondents include program applicants, study participants, grantee staff and community partners, as well as state and county staff responsible for extracting data from government databases for the evaluation. Specific respondents per instrument are noted in the burden tables below.

ANNUAL BURDEN ESTIMATES

The following instruments, part of the baseline data collection and site Management Information Systems (MIS), are proposed for public comment under this 60-Day Federal Register Notice.

Implementation and Cost Study

Instrument	Number of Respondents	Number of Responses per Respondent	Average Burden Hours per response	TOTAL Burden Hours	Total ANNUAL Burden Hours
Semi-structured interview topic guide with program staff and community partners	120	2	1	240	80
Focus group guide with program participants	240	1	1.5	360	120
Web survey of program staff and community partners	200	2	0.5	200	66.7
Study MIS for grantee and partner staff to document program participation	200	1,500	0.0333	10,000	3,333.3

Impact Study

Instrument	Number of Respondents	Number of Responses per Respondent	Average Burden Hours per response	TOTAL Burden Hours	Total ANNUAL Burden Hours
Introductory script					
Grantee staff	120	105	0.1667	2,100	700
Program applicants ¹	12,600	1	0.1667	2,100	700
Baseline survey					
Study participants	12,000	1	0.5833	7,000	2333.3
Study MIS for grantee staff to conduct random assignment	120	105	0.1667	2,100	700
State and county administrative records	32	2	8	512	170.7

¹ Five percent of program applicants are not expected to agree to participate in the study; thus there are 5% more program applicants than study participants

Estimated Total Annual Burden Hours: 8,204

In compliance with the requirements of Section 506(c)(2)(A) of the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, the Administration for Children and Families is soliciting public comment on the specific aspects of the information collection described above. Copies of the proposed collection of information can be obtained and comments may be forwarded by writing to the Administration for Children and Families, Office of Planning, Research and Evaluation, 370 L'Enfant Promenade, SW., Washington, DC 20447, Attn: ACF Reports Clearance Officer. E-mail address: infocollection@acf.hhs.gov. All requests should be identified by the title of the information collection.

The Department specifically requests comments on: (a) whether the proposed collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the agency, including whether the information shall have practical utility; (b) the accuracy of the agency's estimate of the burden of the proposed collection of information; (c) the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and (d) ways to minimize the burden of the collection of information

on respondents, including through the use of automated collection techniques or other forms of information technology. Consideration will be given to comments and suggestions submitted within 60 days of this publication.

Robert Sargis
Reports Clearance Officer

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